

National Association for Home Care & Hospice

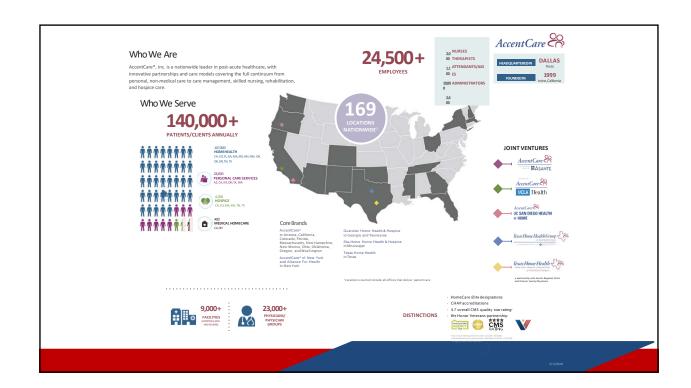
### **HOME CARE & HOSPICE COVID-19 TOWN HALL**

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Darin Szilagyi, FACHE, FHMFA, APR, Vice President, Marketing & Communications Sara Castillo RN, BSN, PHN, MSN, Chief Nursing Officer, SVP Dave I. Davis, RN-BC, BSN, MA, ACRN, Chief Clinical Innovation Officer Linda Tavel, MD MBA FAAHPM, National Medical Director Hospice and Palliative Care Joanna Ciampaglione, Senior Vice President Personal Care Services, East Jeff Franck, Senior Vice President, General Manager -PCS West and Central, MHC



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### The AccentCare Panelists

- Darin Szilagyi, FACHE, FHMFA, APR Vice President, Marketing & Communications
- Sara Castillo RN, BSN, PHN, MSN Chief Nursing Officer, SVP
- Dave I. Davis, RN-BC, BSN, MA, ACRN Chief Clinical Innovation Officer
- Linda Tavel, MD MBA FAAHPM
   National Medical Director Hospice and Palliative Care
- Joanna Ciampaglione
   Senior Vice President Personal Care Services, East
  - Jeff Franck Senior Vice President, General Manager -PCS West and Central, MHC

# Robust Communication *Plan: Strong, Steady, Consistent Voice*

#### National + regional media

Establish AccentCare's as a thought leader via CEO and senior leader interviews



- National print: five interviews total in Home Healthcare News and Modern Healthcare
- Regional TV: Two interviews with Dallas NBC and CBS affiliates content syndicated in 20 other markets
- Regional print: Local market outreach stories in North TX, Central TX and Mississippi

### Internal leadership communication Rhythm

Daily coronavirus CEO messages and videos plus "Real Talk. Real Care" storytelling from all levels of the organization



- Daily CEO emails: Messages tailored to the moment to calm, coax, convey confidence and call to action
- Weekly CEO videos: CEO messages to personalize and connect with all employees
- Real Talk. Real Care: Front-line stories told by front-line personnel – Sara/Dave, RNs, PTs, and a chaplain
- Website Hub: Repository for all

#### **Targeted communications**

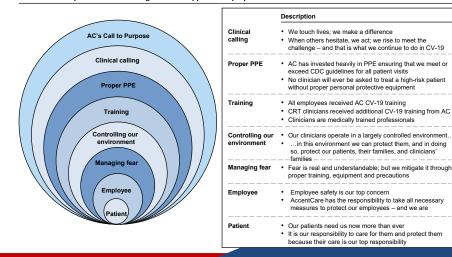
Targeted delivery of key AccentCare messaging to employees, patients, referral sources and payors. Ondemand printing.



- Collateral: 227 customized pieces to patients, families, referral sources and payors
- Sales campaigns: Medicare policy changes, patient safeguarding and CV19 acceptances
- Employee engagement: Employee Rising to the Moment submissions and open forum Q&A

### COVID represents a defining moment in our history

Our Call to Purpose and how the organization supports and prepares our front line clinical team

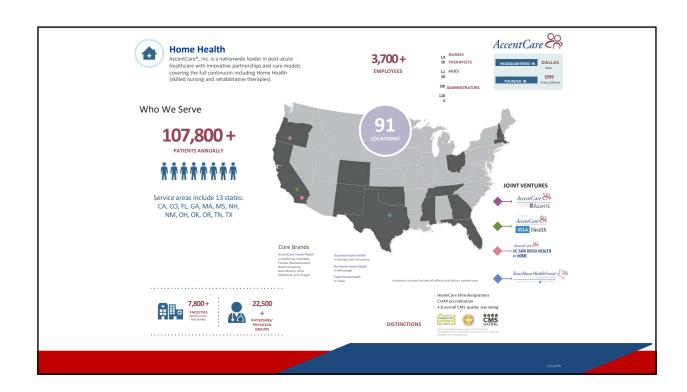


# AccentCare quickly mobilized and effectively responded to the COVID-19 challenge

- Preparing the enterprise:
  - Established Central COVID-19 Command Center
  - Cross-functional work-streams (PPE, Training, Workforce Management)
  - Communications
  - Sales redeploying resources
  - Generalized training for all employees
  - Repurposing teams/members to provide support as needed
  - Clinical, Operational and Work From Home toolkits
  - COVID-19 resources accessible to the organization
  - Established presumed and confirmed "flags" in the EMR to be able to track patients
  - Developed and employee tracker to track all quarantined, presumed and confirmed employees
  - Surveillance for local, state, federal and CDC guidelines

## Overview of General and Specialized Trainings

Training	Total Trained	Description
Coronavirus Overview Course	<ul> <li>Launched to employees via ACE 11,115</li> <li>Information mailed to all employee homes 24,437</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Included CDC Overview of COVID-19</li> <li>Included What to do if you are sick with COVID-19</li> </ul>
COVID19 Role-Specific Curriculum(s)	<ul> <li>24,437 employees trained in role specific trainings</li> <li>Corporate: 772</li> <li>Home Health: 3,674</li> <li>Hospice: 560</li> <li>MHC: 547</li> <li>PCS: 18,884</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Role-Specific Curriculums included content for Clinical, Non Clinical, PCS MHC, and Intake launched in ACE and through microsite for PCS.</li> </ul>
COVID19 Response Teams	369 total clinicians trained in HH     525 total trained clinicians in Hospice	<ul> <li>Development of COVID19 Positive Patient Best Practices</li> <li>COVID 19 Skills Competency</li> <li>Donning and Doffing PPE Appropriately</li> </ul>



# Clinical Response and Solutions

- New clinical protocols
   Established strong clinical foundation
   Best practice for Home visits

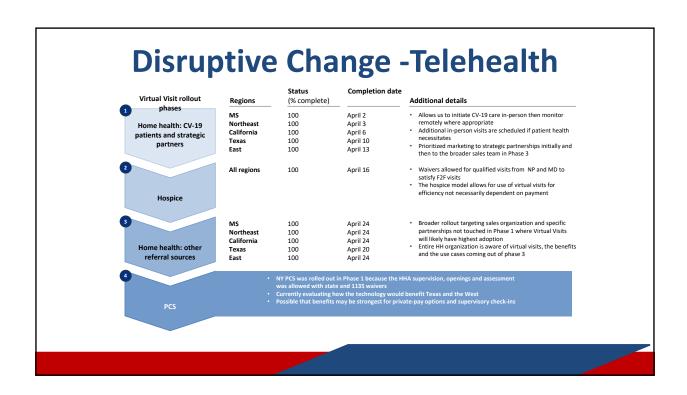
  - Donning/doffing PPE
     CDC guidelines for PPE use/reuse
     How to manage workforce regulatory foundation
- Referral checklist for accepting CV patients
  - Established screening protocols at intake and welcome call
  - · Prompts in HCHB for clinicians to ask about travel, short breath, cough, fever, sore throat, and any confirmed cases in the household
  - · Welcome call rewritten for CV confirmed or presumed patients
- Patient call script Safeguarding your Health wellness calls
- Responsive Organizational Structure
  - Assigned clinical specialist by region/div to provide support as needed
     Developed Clinical COVID-19 task force
- Clinician Training
   COVID-19 education required for all clinicians

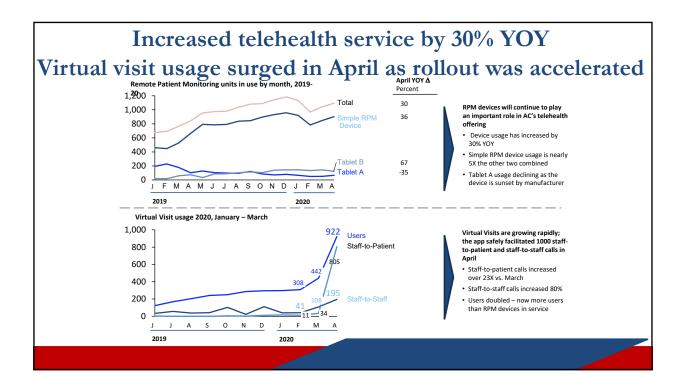
  - To mitigate employee exposure
     Best serve/protect patients

## Patient Care is our primary responsibility **Employee safety is top priority**

- -COVID Response Team Well-trained and provisioned clinicians ready to face COVID-19
  - List of volunteers across all regions
  - Specialized training and competency assessment
  - Strong plan of incentives and financial protections
  - Fully provisioned with required safety equipment
  - Numbers: proactive patients confirmed and presumed
  - Predicting "the surge"

#### **Disruptive Change -Telehealth** Telehealth overview Physical and virtual telehealth Remote monitoring to improve patient outcomes · Conduit into the patient's home for Remote Patient Monitoring - hardware based offerings allow for varying degrees of interactions and monitoring including cord- Collect health data on timely intervals in connected and Bluetooth-enabled accordance with doctor's orders peripheral devices · Connect clinicians to nursing specialists Facilitate face-to-face appointments (select Virtual Visits - app-based software that can run on any consumer tablet or smartphone – less expensive than RPM but limited applications and no · Minimize home visits - valuable Matching patient type to TH offering can aid recove during infectious disease outbreak peripherals Most patients benefit from virtual visits with ready Patient outcomes, partner collaboration and clinician safety access to AC doctor Cost savings, not revenue gains... consults, family • RPM is right until recently Biometric data collection can provide more when remote complete health profile · Historically, neither Medicare nor peripherals commercial payers compensated for TH Technology enables more seamless patient | clinician | nurse specialist | doctor · Can supplement on-site visits thus lowering drive time Limits clinician exposures during patient infectious period by substituting for some Allows to facilitate F2Fs to enable timely billing plan of care in-person visits





# **Disruptive Change -Telehealth**

#### A patient's story...



- Elderly: 91 year old patient and his wife
- Fearful: of COVID and seeking to minimize house traffic
- Telehealth: AccentCare nurse spoke to them about telehealth, but...
- ...no access to smart device technology in the home
- Hardware loaner: We provided them a tablet and set up the device for them
- Training: We trained them on the usage until they were comfortable that they could do it themselves
- Virtual visits: Husband and wife were excited to have a virtual connection to our clinical team while minimizing risks

#### ...and a nurse's



- First use: Mississippi RN's first virtual visit patient
- Simple setup: Easy to
- configure for the patient
   Visits: One visit
   completed allowing her to monitor status and ensure patient well-being
- Moral support: During these difficult times the patient found comfort in the simple act of a virtual check-in; raised husband's and wife's spirits
- Supplements, not replaces: Virtual visits serve as a complement to the traditional in-home visit allowing us to provide an even greater level of care

# Disruptive Change – Hospital to Home Home Health is a Viable Solution

Now, more than ever, Home Health is a viable solution for the continuum challenge.

· Home Health is a lower cost, and patient-preferred, setting





 With our Care Path Intensive Home Care product, we are prepared to serve very complex and fragile patients that would historically been discharged to the SNF setting

\* Home Health Market Overview, Harris Williams & Co., Decembe

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# Disruptive Change – Hospital to Home Home Health is a Viable Solution

CarePath Intensive Home Care is built on careful transitions, high-touch care, and phased treatment to help ensure outcomes and satisfaction.



Pre-discharge hospital bedside assessments determine levels of care, home safety, and needs for ancillary services



Nurse Navigators facilitate hospital to home transition



60-day care plan, including <u>daily encounters during the first 14 days</u>, from nurses, therapists, medical social workers, and home health aides



Telehealth enables virtual check-ins and monitors real-time changes in condition



Follow-up helps to ensure appropriate step-down care throughout episode of care



Integration of personal care services seamlessly delivers attendant support with appropriate payer approval

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# Re-visiting the Plan of Care

- Early in the pandemic, families refused visits
- Review of Medicare Guidelines
- Development of new plans of care: minimum frequency for those families and facilities that requested limited visits, and augment with "telephonic" visits from nursing staff & team members: Social Worker, Chaplain, Bereavement Coordinators, Volunteers
- Volunteers restricted to telephonic visits only or non-contact
- Project Staffing Shortage and Needs: Consideration of impact of COVID in our operations: "what if"....multiple RNs other team members require quarantine?
- Medicare waivers studied and implemented as soon as possible
  - NPs Face to Face visits telehealth
- Intent/impact of telephonic visits and telehealth: preserving scarce PPE resources and minimizing risk of infection to patients/families/staff
- Nursing staff only for COVID + patients

### Re-visiting the Plan of Care - Medications and Supplies

- Pharmacy: medication refills increased from 15 days to 30 days in facilities and homes
- Dispensing meds for anticipated symptoms:
  - Pain, dyspnea, fever, nausea
- Design of "COVID care": disposable items in homes: stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs,.
- Discussion of other items left in homes for duration of treatment: pulse oximeters

### **EMR Updates**

- · Templates updated to ask:
  - · About recent travel by patient/caregivers/family
  - Is anyone in the home symptomatic
- · Visit code updates:
  - · Telephonic/telehealth code types added:
    - Nursing
    - Social worker
    - Chaplains
    - Nurse practitioners

### Keeping Agencies Information - Hospice Division

- Daily COVID calls for Hospice Leadership:
  - Supplies—PPE
  - Preparation for receiving COVID patients
  - Fit testing as the pandemic unfolded and supplies obtained
  - Tracking of COVID in communities as it appeared
  - Tracking of COVID exposure/infection in our staff
  - Tracking of COVID exposure/infection in our patients
  - Review of CDC guidelines and updates

### Outreach/Education/Encouragement

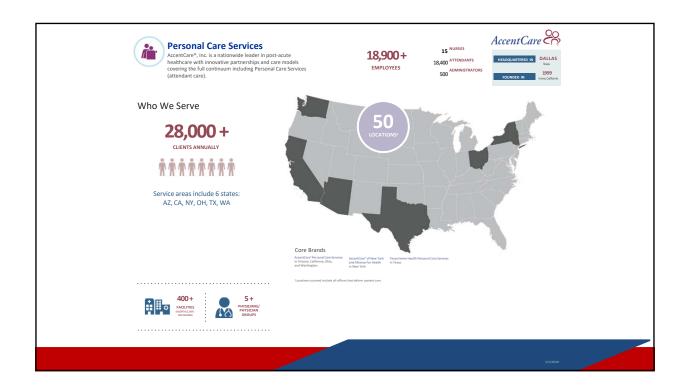
- Two sessions with Hospice Medical Directors and Nurse Practitioners were held:
  - Early in process to explain how we were preparing to protect all staff, patients, families with respect to education of staff and PPEs
  - Second session explaining strategies: remote telephonic IDGs, telehealth/telephonic visits, asking what they needed
- Ensured CEO daily eMails/weekly videos got to the front line
- Series of AccentCare staff videos on their preparation, coping, mindset in the COVID crisis—Enterprise wide
- Hospice Town Hall:
  - Hospice Leadership with Q&A section
- "Dishing with the Docs" sessions for each hospice site with a Hospice Medical Director speaking 15 minutes, followed by Q&A, ideas, comments—comfort with caring for COVID patients, and process improvements as outcomes

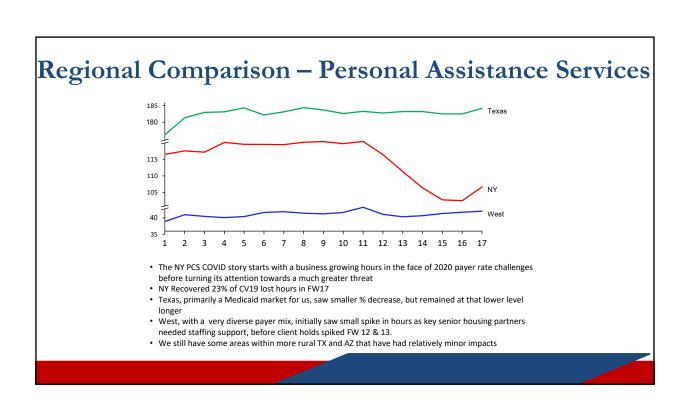
# Preparing for the future

- Address "fallout" from families being isolated from their loved ones: anticipate higher levels of complicated grief
- Address needs in our own staff who were unable to practice in their preferred "hands on" style
  in caring for the dying
- Reach out to other providers in the community who operated under the restrictive policies caregivers, first responders
- Offer bereavement and counseling services to families whose loved ones were in hospitals and other settings (community outreach and service)
- Leverage what we have learned from use of Telehealth in hospice—its applications that fall
  within Medicare guidelines.
- Consider "PAR" levels for PPE in the near term while awaiting recurrence of COVID or other illness.
- Build on the relationships developed during this pandemic—we are a proper part of the health care continuum

#### Opening Up to Business

- Hospice has continued to offer services to all patients during the pandemic, including COVID positive patients
- We are ready to serve as the facilities re-open to access hospice for their residents/patients





### NY PCS operated at the epicenter of the US pandemic

#### Managing the crisis

patients, caregivers and office staff due to fear during pa Need for agility; balance changing daily demands from staff, patients, payers.

- · Staffing: Employees afraid to come to work; school closings create childcare issues; managers becoming counselors;
- Patients: Refusing to let caregivers into homes; out of work family become home health aides, expansion of the Consumer Directed Model
- · Payers: Demanding data, modified EPP, employee screening policies and protocols
- Hours: Hours snowballed as business experienced average week-over-week declines of 4400 for four weeks
- · Directives: New directives were coming out almost daily; the CDC, NYS Department of Health, the Joint Commission, Payers
- WFH Strategy: Moved large patient care coordinating units to a WFH model, provide protection, reduce commute, improve efficiency and maintain team integrity
- Telephonic and Telehealth: Once waivers came through, we were able to quickly convert one of our Value Based Purchasing products (VBP) to full telehealth capabilities
- · PPE: Maintained adequate PPE supplies throughout the crisis, managing against fears and within CDC guidelines

#### Pivoting to the future

Hours bottomed out in FW16 at 13% below prior year, now up 4400 from nadir; we are repairing the business and returning to growth

- Outlook: Near-term challenges persist as state remains closed and
- Staffing: Bringing new care providers online to backfill for departures while maintaining social distancing
- Restarts: Focused nursing resources on calling "on hold" patients 94 of 400 patients brought back on service as of 4/27
- Referral sources: Leveraging our strong performance and on-going support of referral sources throughout the crisis to accelerate census

# WEST PCS and Texas PCS saw varying levels of spread & impact

#### Managing the crisis

While California had hot spots, and both the broader West and Texas had similar types of management challenges around Staffing, Patients, Payers, PPE and the rest - it didn't hit sweepingly as it did in New York

- · Staffing: Executed on phased and controlled WFH strategies Patients: At peak, saw upwards of 5% of patients with services
- on hold due to Covid: primarily by choice, out of fear.
- Payers: Extremely diverse mix of payers and payer rules, with different reactions / demands / concessions by payer.
- Hours: Loss felt most strongly in CA; Our strength in AL / IL was both a plus and minus as those buildings adjusted to Covid. Also, saw clients with lower hours most likely to pause services.

Leveraging internal strength to support each other - NY, West, TX

- Dallas IT developed patient surveys and rolled out telehealth
- MS nurses there assisted NY with symptomatic patient triage CA - set up support for NY electronic visit verification
- Clinical developed Covid protocols to ensure as much safety as possible for our field staff, while ensuring continuity of care
- <u>Dallas</u> IT successfully supported work from home initiatives that changed real time across our markets

Pivoting to the future

Hours in West bottomed out FW 13 and 14: Texas's impact was smaller as a percentage, but remained at that lower level through FW 16

- Outlook: Planning for areas less affected to-date to still feel an impact Staffing: Developed virtual hiring and onboarding practices that we
- will use into the future; able to bring hiring levels to norm last 2 weeks Restarts: Developed scripts for our non-clinical supervisors to increase
- education and comfort level among Clients and Caregivers: Increase in clients on hold peaked early April in both West and Texas, and v have been able to drive down each week since then.
- Referral sources: Our ability and willingness to serve new active, positive Covid clients, as well as to work in communities with active spread, will be key to regaining growth through rest of year.

## Lessons Learned - Crisis Innovation

- How is Accent Care better for this experience?
  - Work From Home workforce
  - Remote/Virtual Visits
  - Procuring PPE / Inventory Management

Q & A

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# NAHC COVID-19 Information and Resources



nahc.org/covid19 nahc.org/covid19faqs

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# **Upcoming Events**

COVID-19 Virtual Town Halls Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2020 Financial Management Conference & Expo

> July 26-28, 2020 Las Vegas, NV

2020 Home Care and Hospice Conference and Expo

> October 18-20, 2020 Tampa, FL

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